

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 FEAE-00

FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-03 STR-04 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3456

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 2105

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ENRG TC JA

SUBJ: UAE-JAPANESE RELATIONS

1. WITH MINISTER OF PETROLEUM HAVING DEPARTED YESTERDAY ON TRIP TO JAPAN, I HAD OPPORTUNITY OCTOBER 20 TO CALL ON JAPANESE AMBASSADOR ODAKA FOR REVIEW OF JAPAN-UAE RELATIONS IN GENERAL. ODAKA SAID RELATIONS WERE GENERALLY GOOD; THERE WERE NO SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN DURING THE PAST YEAR SOME STICKY COMMERCIAL GAS AND OIL PROBLEMS. HE SAID HE HOPED THESE WERE ON THE WAY TO BEING OVERCOME. HE SAID THAT PURSUANT TO LONG-STANDING INVITATION FROM GOJ FOR SHAIKH ZAYID TO VISIT JAPAN (EXTENDED BY PRIME MINISTER MIKI AFTER OCTOBER WAR) TOKYO HAD RECENTLY PROPOSED DATES OF NOVEMBER 10-12. ODAKA DID NOT AS YET HAVE RESPONSE FROM SHAIKH ZAYID AS TO WHETHER THESE DATZUS CONVENPMNT.

2. ON COMMERCIAL PROBLEMS, AMBASSADOR ODAKA

SAID THAT

HE THOUGHT DISPUTE BETWEEN JAPAN LINES AND ABU DHABI NATIONAL OIL COMPANY WAS ON WAY TO BEING RESOLVED. ADNOC HAD AGREED TO NEGOTIATE NEW CONTRACT FOR OIL LIFTINGS TO REPLACE OLD, EXPEN-
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SIVE ONE, AND ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT HAVE DETAILS, HE ASSUMED IT WOULD

BE IN LINE WITH CURRENT PURCHASES FROM ADNOC BEING NEGOTIATED BY OTHER INDEPENDENT BUYERS. WITH RESPECT TO DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ADNOC AND TOKYO ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, HOWEVER, THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS IN BREAKING IMPASSE OVER ADNOC DEMAND FOR UPWARD REVISION OF PRICE TEPCO WOULD PAY FOR LNG FROM DAS ISLAND PLANT. (COMMENT: IN LONDON I HEARD FROM INDUSTRY SOURCES THAT TEPCO HAD AGREED TO INCREASE PRICE FROM ORIGINAL 98 CENTS PER MILLION BTUS TO ABOUT TWO DOLLARS. ODAKA SAID THAT ADNOC WAS HOLDING OUT FOR INCREASE MORE IN LINE WITH FOUR-FOLD RISE IN OIL PRICES THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE SINCE ORIGINAL CONTRACT WAS SIGNED. ATTEMPT TO REACH SETTLEMENT ON PRICE WILL BE ONE OF MAIN PURPOSES OF VISIT TO JAPAN BY OTAIBA, WHO IS ACCOMPANIES BY ADNOC MANAGING DIRECTOR HAMRA KROUHA.

3. ODAKA SAID THAT JAPANESE COMPANIES HAD FOUND HAMRA KROUHA THIS PAST YEAR TO BE SO UNREASONABLE TO DEAL WITH THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTED BY TOKYO TO COMPLAIN TO HAMRA KROUHA'S BOSS, ADNOC CHAIRMAN SHAIKH TAHNO

G ODAKA SAID HE HAD SPOKEN VERY FRANKLY WITH TAHNOON, AND HAD RECEIVED IN REPLY STATEMENT THAT IT WAS HE, SHAIKH TAHNOON, AND NOT THE ALGERIAN HAMRA KROUHA, WHO WAS IN CONTROL OF ADNOC POLICIES, AND IF JAPANESE COMPANIES HAD ANY PROBLEMS THEY WERE TO COME DIRECTLY TO HIM INSTEAD OF HAMRA KROUHA. NEVERTHELESS ODAKA AND I AGREED THAT WHEN IT COME TO PRACTICE, TAHNOON'S WEAK UNDERSTANDING OF TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF OIL, PLUS HIS OTHER DUTIES, MAKE HIM EXTREMELY DEPENDENT ON THE HARDWORKING AND COMPETENT HAMRA KROUHA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ABUDH02105
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750363-0507
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751039/aaaabiky.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UAE-JAPANESE RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, TC, JA
To: STATE TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006